



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Dear Chairperson Haines and Members of the Health Policy Committee:

I am writing today to inform you that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners (BOC) strongly opposes much of the language in HB 4862 and 4863 because it tampers with language in the Public Health Code (MCL333.6226), which currently allows local units of government the ability to evaluate and designate the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency. The Oakland County BOC approved Oakland County Health Division's Office of Substance Abuse Services as the designated Coordinating Agency (CA) by resolution in 1974. This decision was reaffirmed by resolution in 2009 as the Oakland County BOC once again determined the Health Division is the entity that best serves as the CA in this community.

It is important to note the strong collaborative relationship that exists between the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (CMHA) and the CA ensures clients receive seamless access to treatment, no matter what their needs, and also guarantees access to the wide range of support services offered by the two agencies. Removing the CA designation from the Oakland County Health Division dismantles an efficient and cost effective infrastructure that was carefully developed over many decades.

Furthermore, a review of the Oakland County CA client information system supports this designation as 79% of the people who present with a substance abuse disorder do not have mental health needs. In fact, most of the remaining 21% are not classified as severe and persistent mentally ill clients and as such they would not be eligible to receive services provided by the Community Mental Health Authority.

I urge you to oppose these bills as written especially without consideration for local control. There is a gross misconception that substance abuse and mental health services if joined together will have significant savings. So far, there has been no data substantiating this hypothesis. Moreover, there has been no discussion on the erosion of public health and the damage this "one-size-fits-all" solution could have on a delivery system that has prided itself on an eclectic approach in solving a chronic disease. Oakland County has been a leader at demonstrating the efficiencies that have been realized through the methodical development and implementation of best practices as well as the creation of a collaborative community infrastructure, which has strengthened over time. Removing local authority to determine the appropriate designation, in essence, also removes critical oversight and evaluation at the local level as well as important assurances for achieving these efficiencies.

Michael Gingell
Chairman

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION #12017

BY: General Government Committee. Christine Long, Chairperson

IN RE: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS — OPPOSITION TO MICHIGAN HOUSE BILLS 4862 AND 4863 REMOVING THE DESIGNATION OF THE COORDINATING AGENCY FROM OAKLAND COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION.

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved the Oakland County Health Division as the designation of Coordinating Agency for Substance Abuse Services under resolution 6586 passed March 7, 1974 under Public Act 56 of 1973; and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners reaffirmed the approval of Oakland County Health Division as the designated Coordinating Agency for Substance Abuse Services under resolution 09190 passed September 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners remains the empowered entity under Public Act 368 of 1978 to approve the designation for the county Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency, and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Health Division Office of Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency has efficiently and effectively implemented all functions of Coordinating Agencies to address substance abuse prevention, education and treatment as prescribed since 1974; and

WHEREAS the Michigan House of Representatives introduced House Bills 4862 and 4863, eliminating Part 62 of the Michigan Public Health Code (PA 368 of 1978) and inserting selected sections into the Mental Health Code (PA 258 of 1974); and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners recognizes substance abuse is a public health issue; and

WHEREAS this action would remove the Oakland County Health Division Office of Substance Abuse Services designation as the Oakland County Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency without approval from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS this action removes approval from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in determining local Coordinating Agency designation; and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Health Division Office of Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency fully satisfies requirements for coordinating care for individuals with both mental illness and substance abuse diagnoses according to their contract with the Michigan Department of Community Health Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services as approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners annually.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes House Bills 4862 and 4863.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Oakland Board of Commissioners urges the Governor's involvement in assuring that local control is retained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Rick Snyder and all Representatives serving Oakland County and the House Committee on Health Policy and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Chairperson, on behalf of the General Government Committee I move the adoption of the foregoing Resolution.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Resolution #12017

February 1, 2012

Moved by Long supported by Zack the resolution be adopted.

AYES: Gershenson, Gingell, Gosselin, Greimel, Hatchett, Hoffman, Jackson, Long, Matis, McGillivray, Middleton, Nash, Nuccio, Potts, Quarles, Runestad, Scott, Taub, Weipert, Woodward, Zack, Bosnic, Covey, Crawford, Dwyer. (25)
NAYS: None. (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the resolution was adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Bill Bullard Jr., Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on February 1, 2012, with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Oakland at Pontiac, Michigan this 1st day of February, 2012.

Bill Bullard Jr.

Bill Bullard Jr., Oakland County